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Research Line: 3.12 Governance of marine and coastal environment, integration of public land and marine policies and social responsibility



**PhD project: Human wellbeing in a changing marine social-ecological system**

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**Summary:** Ecosystem services and the associated benefits that people obtain from nature contribute to human wellbeing. Yet the social-ecological dynamics that determine how ecosystem change affects the multidimensions of wellbeing are still incipient and poorly understood. Therefore, I propose an interdisciplinary and participatory spatial analysis to understand how local social-ecological dynamics affect the responsiveness of human wellbeing to ecosystem change. Using a Parque Natural do Litoral Norte in Portugal – a marine protected area (MPA) – as a case study, I will investigate (1) how key marine ecosystem services and benefit flows changed after the implementation of the MPA; (2) what social-ecological factors affect the elasticity of the MPA's key marine ecosystem services; and (3) what trade-offs shall emerge with alternative MPA management regimes. Results are expected to show how benefits from marine ecosystem services affect the multidimensions of local stakeholders' wellbeing, as the system changes; and what policy responses are needed to mitigate trade-offs emerging from alternative MPA management regimes.

